



CONNECTING YOUR
BUSINESS WITH THE
INDUSTRY'S BEST

Senator Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

April 25, 2018

Dear Senator Murray:

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific Printing Industries Association (PPIA), which represents printers, publishers and packagers in seven states, including Washington State. As you are aware, the printing industry is a core sector of Washington State's manufacturing economy, providing over 11,000 jobs at more than 850 facilities and generating over \$2.1 million in shipments annually. PPIA and its members have concerns regarding an ongoing trade remedy case pertaining to Canadian imports of uncoated groundwood paper. This case is currently pending at the Department of Commerce and at the International Trade Commission (ITC).

Uncoated groundwood paper, commonly referred to as "newsprint," is used in the production of newspapers, advertising circulars included in both newspapers and at retail locations, and even in certain paperback books. There has been a precipitous decline in demand for newsprint since 2000, particularly as news consumption shifts from hard copy to digital. Thus, the production of newsprint has declined. Currently, only five mills in the U.S. produce this particular type of paper. Three of these are located in Washington State. One mill, NORPPAC, has petitioned the federal government to take trade remedy actions against Canadian imports of uncoated groundwood paper. It is a move widely opposed by other domestic paper producers.

PPIA represents companies that are purchasers of uncoated groundwood paper. As an association, we are not in the business of favoring or supporting one supplier over another. However, we have taken a unique interest in this case because of its impact on the cost and supply of newsprint. Tariffs are being collected at the border now, and the marketplace is already feeling the effects of resulting price hikes. And while Washington State is proud of its strong paper manufacturing base, the truth is that there is not enough production of newsprint in the entire United States to supply all domestic printers and publishers. Canadian imports are an important part of the print and publishing supply chain nationwide.

The current trade case jeopardizes the future of a precarious newspaper business, the viability of advertisers, printers and publishers who rely on uncoated groundwood paper, and ultimately, American jobs. PPIA respectfully asks that you keep these concerns in mind as the issue of imposing tariffs on imported uncoated groundwood paper is considered in Washington, DC. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jules Van Sant
Executive Director

ppiassociation.org

